

Message Text

SECRET

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15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07

TRSE-00 L-03 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /074 W
----- 044242

R 170730Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO ECSTATE WASHDC 6074
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T TEHRAN 2749

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MASS, IR, TH
SUBJ: MUNITIONS PRODUCTION IN THAILAND

REF: (A) STATE 061954 (DTG 131330Z MAR 76) (NOTAL), (B) BANGKOK
5553 (DTG 111024Z MAR 76) (NOTAL)

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH DOD POLICY, ARMISH/MAAG HAS ADVISED
GOI THAT AS 20MM AND SMALLER CALIBRE AMMUNITION IS AVAILABLE
FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES, IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO PURCHASE
IT THROUGH FMS SYSTEM. THERE IS NOTHING IN OUR EXPERIENCE
TO DATE TO SUPPORT STATEMENT IN PARA 2 REF (B) THAT GOI
OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT CONGRESS MIGHT REJECT SALE OF AMMO
TO IRAN ON GROUNDS THAT IT MIGHT BE TRANSFERRED TO ARABS.
NOR DO WE BELIEVE THAT POSSIBLE OLIN-WINCHESTER CONNECTION
WITH LOCAL IRANIAN AGENT WOULD BLOCK SALE TO GOI. IF
GOI WISHED TO DO BUSINESS WITH FIRM, IT COULD ARRANGE TO
DO SO AROUND AGENT OR BY ALLOWING SMALL COMMISSION CHARGE.
THIS HAS HAPPENED WITH OTHER FIRMS IN THE PAST.

2. RE COMPARATIVE COST DATA IN PARA 3 REF (B), GENERAL
TOUFANIAN RECENTLY TOLD US THAT IRAN WOULD NOT BUY FROM
BELGIUM BECAUSE OF HIGH PRICE.

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3. WE CANNOT JUDGE WHETHER IRANIANS ARE SERIOUS ABOUT

LONG-TERM ARRANGEMENTS WITH USMC FOR AMMUNITION
PURCHASES. HOWEVER, AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, IRANIANS
ARE STRIVING FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN DEFENSE SYSTEMS, AND
WE DOUBT THAT GOI WOULD WISH TO DEPEND ON AMMUNITON
SUPPLY FROM THAILAND OVER LONG PERIOD OF TIME, I.E.,
LONGER THAN THREE YEARS.
HELMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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